



1959

RURAL DISTRICT
OF
CALNE & CHIPPENHAM



RURAL DISTRICT

of

CAINE AND CHIPPENHAM

THE

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the

YEAR ENDING 31 st DECEMBER, 1959.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.(a) MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

C.L. Broomhead, T.D., M.D., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Also Medical Officer of Health for the Boroughs of Calne, Chippenham and Malmesbury and the Rural District of Malmesbury, Assistant County Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer.

(b) SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

+ H.J. Taylor, Cert. S.I.B., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

also Surveyor to the Council.

(c) ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS.

+ S.H. Murray, Cert. S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.

+ E.J. Silvester, Cert. S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.

+ A.F.M. Howard, Cert. S.I.B., A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

+ Qualifications held by these Officers:-

Sanitary Inspectors' Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute, Meat & Other Foods Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

Certificate in Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings and Public Works of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

(Note - The Royal Sanitary Institute is now the Royal Society of Health).

Committees of the Council which are concerned with matters of Public Health.

Finance, Staff and General Purposes Committee.

Public Health Committee.

Housing Committee.

These Committees are held every four weeks throughout the year and deal with all matters appertaining to public health and housing.

(d) SECRETARY TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

S.G.V. Williamson, Cert. R.I.P.H.H.

The Chairman & members,
Calne & Chippenham Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my annual report for the year ending 31st. December, 1959.

The Public Health Officers Regulations, 1959, require inter alia, that as soon as practicable after the 31st. December in each year, a Medical Officer of Health shall make an annual report to the Local Authority for the year ending, on the sanitary circumstances, the sanitary administration and the vital statistics of the district, containing in addition to any other matters upon which he may consider it desirable to report, such information as may from time to time be required by the Minister.

The Minister regards these reports as an "essential and valuable appraisal of the state of the public health" and they have a wide distribution, i.e. to the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food, Ministry of Housing & Local Government and H.M. Inspector of Factories.

Much of the content of this report must, of necessity, be obtained from other departments of the Authority, i.e. from Mr. Witham, the Councils Engineer, Mr. Taylor, the Senior Public Health Inspector and Surveyor and Mr. Baugh, the Housing Manager.

It is only on receipt of reports from these officers and the vital statistics from the Registrar General that the required appraisal and report can be made.

It is most gratifying to report that the more serious infections were conspicuous by their absence, i.e. no cases of Diphtheria and Poliomyelitis were notified. Detailed comments on small outbreaks of Dysentery and Scarlet Fever and the incidence of and the mortality from Tuberculosis, will be found in the substance of the report with other vital statistics.

It was not found necessary to effect the compulsory removal of any person to Hospital as provided for in the National Assistance Act, 1948 Section 47.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient Servant,

C.L. BROOMHEAD.

Area (in acres)	85,383
Population	33,810
No. of inhabited houses (end of 1959 according to the Rate Book).	8410
Rateable Value (31.12.59)	£334,059
Sum represented by Penny Rate 31.3.60.	£1341.

VITAL STATISTICS.LIVE BIRTHS

BIRTHS	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	261	220	481
Illegitimate	10	10	20
TOTAL:-	271	230	501

Crude Birth Rate for the District	14.8
	per 1000 of the population
Adjusted Birth Rate for the District	18.9
	per 1000 of the population
Comparative Birth Rate for England & Wales	16.5
	per 1000 of the population.

Members of the Armed Forces stationed in the area are included in the population figure shown under the heading "General Statistics". To make an approximate allowance for the way in which the sex and age distribution of the local population differs from England & Wales as a whole, the crude birth and death rates for the District are to be multiplied by a "comparability factor" given by the Registrar General. The above statistics have been so corrected.

The Birth Rate for 1959 is lower than the rate expressed for the year 1958 which was 20.09 per 1000 of the population.

STILL BIRTHS.

Eight still births were recorded during 1959. The rate per 1000 total live and still births is 15.7. The comparative rate for England & Wales is given as 20.7.


INFANT MORTALITY.

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age:-

BIRTHS	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	6	6	12
Illegitimate	-	-	-
TOTAL	6	6	12

Rate per 1000 live births.	23.9
Comparative rate for England & Wales	22.0

Six children died during the first week of life; seven died during the first four weeks of life.



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DEATHS.

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Deaths recorded in the Rural District during 1959 were as follows:-

	Males	Females	Total.
	126	104	230.
Crude Death Rate for the District			6.8 per 1000 of the population.
Adjusted Death Rate for the District			9.7 per 1000 of the population.
Death Rate for England & Wales			11.6 per 1000 of the population.

The Death Rate for 1959 is lower than the rate expressed for 1958 which was 7.7 per 1000 of the population. The death rate is also considerably lower than the rate for England & Wales.

ANALYSIS OF CAUSES OF DEATH.

	Males	Females	Total
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	-	1
Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-
Syphilitic disease	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Meningococcal infections	-	1	1
Ac. Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-
Other infective & parasitic dis.	-	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	1	4
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	9	1	10
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	-	-
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	11	5	16
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	1	1
Diabetes	1	-	1
Vascular lesions of nervous sys.	14	16	30
Coronary disease, angina	26	18	44
Hypertension with heart disease	1	2	3
Other heart disease	15	20	35
Other circulatory disease	11	9	20
Influenza	1	8	9
Pneumonia	2	2	4
Other diseases of respiratory sys.	1	-	1
Ulcer of stomach & duodenum	3	2	5
Gastritis, enteritis & diarrhoea	1	1	2
Nephritis & nephrosis	1	2	3
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	-	2
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
Congenital malformations	5	2	7
Other defined and ill-defined dis.	7	9	16
Motor vehicle accidents	7	-	7
All other accidents	1	1	2
Suicide	-	-	-
Homicide & Operations of War	-	-	-
Bronchitis	3	-	3
	126	104	230

Cancer, Coronary Disease and Heart disease collectively were responsible for half of the deaths recorded in the Rural District during 1959.

The following table shows the infectious diseases notified during 1959 with comparative figures since 1955.

	1955	1956		1957		1958		1959		
	a	b	a	b	a	b	a	b	a	b
DISEASE										
Scarlet Fever	15	12	28	28	18	18	34	33	33	33
Whooping Cough	103	103	131	131	50	50	2	2	13	13
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	293	293	60	60	650	650	409	409	378	378
Ac.Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	3	2	1	1	3	3	-	-	-	-
Ac.Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	6	3	7	1	4	3	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	71	69	95	104	11	9	46	39
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	3	3	-	-	1	1
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Para Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	4	3	5	2	9	8	14	14	2	2
Erysipelas	1	1	3	3	1	1	-	-	2	2
Pneumonia	23	23	3	3	19	19	14	14	8	8
Cerebro-Spinal Fever.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis (Virus)	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
TOTALS:-	448	442	309	298	853	860	484	481	483	476

"a" = Original numbers notified.

"b" = Final numbers after correction.

Numerically, the incidence of infectious disease in the Rural District during 1959, showed little change to the figures recorded during 1958.

occurred
An outbreak of Measles/during the first Quarter of the year and a further outbreak during July. This infection accounted for 79.4117% of the total cases of infectious disease (all forms) notified during the year.

Cases of Scarlet Fever were sporadic throughout the district, with one exception when a focus of this infection was found amongst pupils attending the Seagry School. Amongst the cases notified and investigated, one school child subsequently developed nephritis and a male adult, not notified as suffering from Scarlet Fever, but ascertained as suffering from Streptococcal Sore Throat (a variant of the same disease), was found, on laboratory investigation, to have Beta haemolytic streptococcus present ++ Lancefield Group 'A' Type 12 in his throat. There was no association between the child who developed nephritis and the adult with the Type 12 Streptococcus.

In conjunction with the Public Health Laboratory, Bath, a special watch is to be kept in future on the prevalence of Type 12 strains of streptococci and the possibility of an association between cases of Scarlet Fever and the occurrence of acute nephritis.

Although a Salmonella organism was isolated by the Laboratory from material supplied by both patients notified as suffering from Food Poisoning, investigation failed to establish that infection had been conveyed by food.

During the latter part of the year, two minor outbreaks of Dysentery were notified in respect of children attending the Box and Colerne Schools. Children with acute signs and symptoms were excluded school attendance pending treatment and three consecutive negative stool specimens.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE (Continued).

Restrictions were also imposed on adult cases and contacts whose employment was in connection with the preparation and sale of food.

In conjunction with the Principal School Medical Officer, arrangements were made for paper towels and Benzalkonium chloride to be issued to the Box and Colerne Schools as a measure to restrict infection to the area of occurrence.

PARROTS (Prohibition of Importation) Regulations, 1930.

Following information received from the Animal Health Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food concerning the decease of an African Grey Parrot recently imported into the Country, a full and immediate investigation was undertaken and the Public Health Authority at Bristol and Bathavon U.D.C. informed. The deceased parrot was forwarded to the Public Health Laboratory, but the virus of psittacosis was not isolated from the viscera.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases of Tuberculosis notified and confirmed by the County Chest Physician during the year, with comparative figures for previous years since 1948, are given below.

NEW CASES NOTIFIED DURING.

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>PULMONARY</u>	<u>NON-PULMONARY</u>	<u>TOTAL.</u>
1948	14	7	21
1949	11	10	21
1950	30	2	32
1951	26	7	33
1952	23	5	28
1953	24	8	32
1954	8	3	11
1955	18	1	19
1956	11	2	13
1957	10	3	13
1958	15	2	17
1959	11	2	13

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1959

<u>NEW CASES</u>				<u>DEATHS.</u>			
<u>RESP.</u>	<u>NON-RESP.</u>			<u>RESP.</u>	<u>NON-RESP.</u>		
<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>

AGE GROUPS.

0							
1	1						
5	1	1					
15	3						
25	1		1				
35	1	1					
45	1						
55							
65 upwards.	2			1	-	-	-
<u>TOTAL:-</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

The notification rate (respiratory tuberculosis) notified during 1959 per 1000 of the population is. 0.3
Comparative rate for the County 0.28

TUBERCULOSIS (Continued)

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It should be noted that the figures given on page ⁶ of this report do not represent the total number of individuals suffering from Tuberculosis in the Rural District. In addition to the new cases notified each year, a certain proportion of tuberculous persons either move into the District or move out. According to the Register of Tuberculous Persons, the following notified cases of Tuberculosis were living in the Rural District at the end of 1959.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Pulmonary	79	48	127
Non-Pulmonary	22	25	47
TOTAL	101	73	174

The rate for the Rural District, based on the number of notified cases on the Register, is 5.1 per 1000 of the population.

By comparison, the rate for Wiltshire, based on the number of live cases on Chest Clinic Registers, is approximately 5.3 per 1000 of the population.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY.

Whilst it was not possible to arrange for a Mobile X-Ray Unit to visit the Rural District during 1959, The Regional Hospital Board has confirmed that a survey of the general public will be carried out early in 1960.

POLIOMYELITIS IMMUNISATION.

During 1959, the following persons, living in the Rural District, were immunised against Poliomyelitis, with two injections.

<u>Children (born 1943-59)</u>	<u>Young Persons (born 1933-1942)</u>
1417 (2099)	443 (179)

<u>Expectant Mothers</u>	<u>General Practitioners & Families</u>
161 (116)	2(3)

<u>Ambulance Staff & Families</u>	<u>Dentists & Families</u>
1 (Nil)	2 (Nil)

Hospital Staff
2 (1)

Note:- Number of completed third injections shown in brackets.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION AND WHOOPING COUGH IMMUNISATION.

The following children received primary immunisation during 1959.

<u>Under 1 year</u>	<u>Ages 1-4</u>	<u>Ages 5-14</u>	<u>Total</u>
636	166	37	839

Total immunised child population at 31.12.59.

<u>Ages 0-4 yrs</u>	<u>Ages 5-14 yrs</u>	<u>Total</u>
1435	4562	5997

VACCINATION.

The following children were vaccinated during 1959.

<u>Under 1 yr</u>	<u>Ages 1-4 yrs</u>	<u>Ages 5-15+</u>	<u>Total</u>
307	37	65	409

In addition to the above, a further 160 children were re-vaccinated during 1959.

WATER SUPPLIES WITHIN THE RURAL DISTRICT.

Close co-operation has been maintained with the Surveyor, Chippenham Borough and the results of all samples taken from the reservoirs at Yewstock, Five Ways and Bowden Hill, are forwarded to him for information. In addition, routine arrangements have been made for an estimation of the free chlorine available in samples of water from the above reservoirs to be forwarded to Mr. Witham, the Council's Engineer and Mr. Phillips, the Surveyor, Chippenham Borough Council. Any departure from the accepted standards is immediately reported to the Engineers concerned.

No change in the sources of supply has taken place during the year.

Widdenham

In spite of the dry weather this spring source continued to yield satisfactorily. The minimum daily yield was 106,000 gallons compared with the lowest recorded yield of 65,000 gallons. The effect of the dry summer was not to decrease the daily summer yield but to delay until early in December, the time of recovery of the springs.

Nettleton.

The yield from this borehole was slightly greater than the previous year. The borehole has shown an improvement in yield during the last few years but is still at 91,000 gallons per day, only about half its original capacity.

Goodshill.

The lowest level recorded in the boreholes was slightly higher than the previous year and the yield normal.

Washwells.

This gravitational spring supply gave some concern towards the end of the summer and had to be supplemented with water from Widdenham. Fortunately no actual shortage was experienced in Box Village which is supplied by this source.

Slaughterford.

This small supply is taken from a privately owned source and supplies the village of Slaughterford only. No difficulties were experienced during the year.

Bulk Supplies.

These are obtained principally from Chippenham Borough, but other supplies are obtained from Malmesbury R.D.C. and the Air Ministry. No supplies were taken from Cricklade & Wootton Bassett R.D.C. this year. In fact a small bulk supply was given to Lyneham R.A.F. Station to assist the R.D.C. who normally give the supply. More water was taken from Malmesbury R.D.C. to supply an area previously supplied from Chippenham Borough sources.

Treatment

With the exception of Slaughterford, all supplies are chlorinated. No other treatment is given.

Drought.

As a result of the dry summer, Chippenham Borough decided to prohibit the use of hosepipes. Corresponding action was taken by this Council. The fact that the Borough found it necessary to restrict supplies at a time when this Council were

WATER SUPPLIES (CONTINUED)Drought (continued)

taking only about two thirds of its agreed maximum, is a matter for considerable concern.

There is no doubt that there is an increasingly urgent need to look for further sources of supply. This is properly a matter for the proposed Joint Water Board. If there is likely to be delay in the formation of this Board then this Council should consider seriously the desirability of taking independent action in the matter. The following figures show the serious position which is developing.

	Maximum Daily Consumption	Available
1955	1,164,000	1,677,000 gallons/day.
1956	1,191,000	
1957	1,324,000	
1958	1,333,000	
1959	1,631,000	

The figures given above for available water, is of course, the minimum. More than this would in fact ^{HAVE BEEN} available last summer.

Extent of Supply.

No major extensions of the supply have taken place this year. In fact the district is now well served with mains. About 95% of the population have a piped water supply. Some improvement on this figure can still be made, but there will probably always remain a small number of dwellings to which it is completely uneconomic to take a public water supply.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

	1959-60
Population.	33,810
Private houses	7,902
Ditto owned by Service Departments	555
Total houses.	8,457
Houses supplied with water by R.D.C.	6,673
Ditto, by other Authorities	1,304
Total houses supplied with water	7,977
Estimated percentage of population supplied	95%
New connections made	207
Water meters in use at end of year	1,129
Capital expenditure at end of year	£406,973.

PRODUCTION OF WATER.Source

Cippenham Borough.	Yewstock	48,943,000
	Corsham	115,336,000
	Eastern Area	106,787,000
	Other places	4,098,000
		<u>275,164,000</u>
Widdenham		112,325,000
Nettleton		32,001,000
Goodshill		61,612,000
Washwells		8,878,000
Slaughterford		70,000 ++
Malmesbury R.D.C.		20,934,000
Compton Bassett (R.A.F.)		126,000
Yatesbury (R.A.F.)		973,000
Cricklade & Wootton Bassett R.D.C.		
++ estimated.		<u>512,083,000</u> Galls.

The following report on the storage and collection of household refuse was given to the Public Health Committee on the 10 Mar 59.

1. The storage and collection of household refuse have occasioned much discussion by the Council and have been the subject of frequent reports, with recommendations to the Council by the Medical Officer of Health and the Senior Public Health Inspector.
2. The storage of domestic refuse awaiting collection is still unsatisfactory and a report by the Senior Public Health Inspector shows that the percentage of dustbins with proper covers varies from 28% to 70%. Apart from the dismal and depressing appearance of household refuse awaiting collection on the roadside in an unending variety of inadequate receptacles, the refuse is exposed to and scattered by the weather, available to children and domestic animals and the work of collection becomes even more unpleasant and difficult.
3. To effect any improvement in the storage and collection of household refuse, it will be necessary for the Council to take action against those who do not provide and maintain an adequate dustbin (Section 75 (i) Public Health Act, 1936). As an alternative the Council may provide and maintain dustbins at an annual charge (Section 75 (ii) Public Health Act, 1936). There have been difficulties whenever a Local Authority has instigated proceedings under Section 75 (i) Public Health Act 1936, as an owner or occupier is entitled to appeal to a Court of Summary Jurisdiction. A High Court decision was given against a Local Authority (Croydon Corporation v Thomas, January, 1947). The practical result of this judgement is that every notice served by a Local Authority for the supply of a dustbin is liable to be challenged in Court, and the Magistrates may allow one appeal and dismiss another. Therefore I am of the opinion that the Council should supply and charge for the dustbin under Sec. 75 (iii) Public Health Act, 1936.
4. In the Council's Housing Estates, the provision of an adequate dustbin is even more necessary owing to the close proximity of dwellings and the presence of a child population, particularly susceptible to intestinal and infectious disease. To attain the provision of a dustbin for every Council house, is for the Council to provide it. A dustbin should be viewed in the same way as other sanitary necessities and amenities.
5. Model Byelaws have been issued by the Ministry of Health in January, 1947 and to guide the Committee in the formation of draft Byelaws, the following are submitted for consideration:-
 1. To ensure that House Refuse is stored in an hygienic manner, it is necessary that such refuse awaiting removal be kept in a sound and impervious dustbin with a well fitting lid. The lid to be kept on the dustbin and replaced after emptying and use.
 2. The dustbin should be placed in a convenient position for collection on the day arranged by the Council.
 3. No refuse, other than domestic refuse, should be placed in the dustbin.
 4. Trade refuse must on no account be placed in a dustbin of this nature intended for household refuse.
 5. Dustbins should preferably be kept on a raised impervious surface, to avoid contamination of the surrounding ground.

STORAGE AND COLLECTION OF HOUSEHOLD REFUSE (CONTINUED)

SUMMARY

1. The storage of household refuse awaiting removal in the Rural District is unsatisfactory.
2. The Council may take action against individuals to provide and maintain dustbins, or the Council may provide and maintain dustbins.
3. It is advisable for the Council to supply and maintain dustbins on its own Housing Estates.
4. Byelaws in the form suggested should be made.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Although no new sewerage schemes were carried out during the year, the Council decided, following a report on the prior need of a sewage disposal scheme for the village of E. Tytherton, to prepare this in conjunction with those for the Parishes of Kington St. Michael, Kington Langley, Sutton Benger and Christian Malford. A comprehensive report on these schemes was made by the Council's Engineer in February, 1960.

Recommended priorities of other schemes, on completion of the above, were given to the Public Health Committee on the 21 Sep 59.

The extensive schemes for the provision of a piped water supply throughout the Rural District will contribute to the problem of sewage disposal as more properties and farms are connected to the Council's mains. The operation of the Milk and Dairies Regulations aimed at improvements in clean milk production are reflected in an increase in the amount of water used by producers. The satisfactory disposal of farm drainage will, on occasions, therefore aggravate the problem of disposal.

A sewage disposal scheme contributes to health because pail closets, septic tanks (closed or overflowing) and small in-effective disposal schemes in close proximity to dwelling houses, become redundant.

The effluents from sewage disposal works should not pollute the rivers or streams into which they discharge and should conform to certain chemical analyses. These effluents are not necessarily sterile and may on occasions convey pathogenic organisms.

Streams and ditches are in effect land drains and throughout their length are subject to a varying degree of pollution from farm drainage, domestic sewage or trade wastes. They are usually slow moving and may contain little surface water in the summer. The degree and extent of the pollution will depend on the amount of surface water draining to the ditch, the gradient, freedom from obstruction and the quantity of polluting effluent reaching the ditch in relation to the normal flow.

Ditches frequently receive the content of the old stone "docks" which have become "sewers" in most villages. Over the years, as housing development proceeds, the quantity of sewage reaching the ditches is increased and becomes a source of complaint. Further, as housing need increases, the village boundaries extend further into the countryside and therefore closer to the ditches and streams serving as land drainage.

Pollution of a ditch or stream can only be completely remedied by the construction of sewage disposal works and adequate sewers in order that the polluting effluent can be treated elsewhere.

(A) - Medical Certificates in support of Housing Applications.

Medical certificates in support of housing applications are considered important documents by the public and careful attention is given to them before a recommendation is made to the Housing Management Committee. A full report was made to this Committee on the 13th. January, 1960 giving an analysis of the situation towards the end of December, 1959 when there were 143 applications supported by medical certificates still seeking Council accommodation. Over the six year period, 1954-1959 inclusive, a total of 136 (40.35%) applicants supported by medical certificates, had been rehoused by the Council, 143 (42.43%) still remained.

(B) - General

The following additional information has been supplied by Mr. Baugh, Housing Manager.

1.	Total Applicants on waiting list at 31 Dec 59	617
2.	Total Applications received during 1959	147
3.	Total rehoused during year to	
	(a) Council houses	36
	(b) other accommodation	<u>23</u> 59
4.	Total applications for O.P.B.s	69
5.	Evicted Families - number brought to notice and dealt with by Council.	
	Rehoused	12
	Pending	<u>4</u> 16
6.	Number of new houses built and occupied during the year	
	(a) By Council	46 @
	(b) By Private Enterprise	<u>56</u> 102

@ includes 15 Old Persons Bungalows.

REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

To:- The Chairman and Members of the Calne and Chippenham Rural District Council:

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour and pleasure to report on the detailed work carried out in the Public Health Department during 1959.

The emphasis this year has been directed towards the demolition or repair of unfit houses under the Council's Slum Clearance programme and much greater progress has been made on this aspect of our work. Full particulars and details of the housing action taken by the Council is referred to later in this report.

Every encouragement has been given to house owners to improve their properties with the aid of Discretionary Grants, and 51 applications were approved in 1959, compared with 34 in 1958.

The House Purchase and Housing Act 1959 came into force on the 14th June 1959 and this amended certain provisions of the Housing (Financial Provisions) Act 1958.

This Act set up a new system of "Standard Grants" to supplement the existing system of improvement grants paid at the discretion of the local authority. The distinctive features of the new grant system are that these grants are payable only in respect of the provision of specified standard amenities and on the expenditure actually incurred for this purpose, and provided certain conditions are satisfied the owner of the property can claim the grant as of right.

The new scheme is designed to deal in the main with relatively straightforward cases in which the improvements involve little or no structural alterations, leaving the existing system of discretionary grants to deal with the more elaborate proposals.

The five standard amenities eligible for standard grant, and the maximum amount of grant payable for the provision of each amenity are as follows:-

- | | | |
|-----|---|------|
| (a) | a fixed bath or shower in a bathroom | £ 25 |
| (b) | a wash-hand basin | £ 5 |
| (c) | a hot water supply | £ 75 |
| (d) | a water closet in or contiguous to the dwelling.. | £ 40 |
| (e) | satisfactory facilities for storing food | £ 10 |

The actual amount of the grant payable in any particular case is one-half of the cost shown to have been incurred in executing the work, subject to a maximum grant of £155.

Owners have taken advantage of these new standard grants and 28 applications had been received by the 31st December 1959.

The Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations 1959 came into operation on the 8th March 1959. These Regulations re-enact with amendments the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949 to 1954. The principal amendments affecting district councils are set out later in this report.

New legislation concerning slaughterhouses came into force on the 1st February 1959, namely, The Slaughterhouse Reports (Appointed Day) Order 1959. This order appoints the 2nd November 1959 as the earliest day by which local authorities shall submit their reports on slaughterhouse facilities to the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, as required by Section 3 of the Slaughterhouses Act 1958. Reports must be submitted under the Act not later than twelve months after the appointed day.

So far as this Council is concerned, there are no licensed slaughterhouses in the rural district and meat purveyors in this district obtain their fresh, home-killed meat from established slaughterhouses in Bath, Bristol, Chippenham, Swindon, and Weston-super-Mare. The Clerk of the Council is obtaining information from these local authorities as to the adequacy and suitability of their existing and future slaughtering facilities, and this information at some future date will be made available to the Council.

The Slaughterhouse (Reports) Direction 1959 comes into operation on the 1st January 1960 and gives suggested headings for local authorities' reports on slaughterhouse facilities, as required by Section 3 of the Slaughterhouses Act 1958.

Extra time this year was devoted to the survey and sampling of existing private water supplies in the Bremhill, Calne Without and Heddington parishes, with a view to securing, if possible, a 100% connection to public mains water supplies.

All the other routine work of the department has continued throughout the year and details of this work are set out in the following pages of this report.

Before concluding this introduction to my report, I should refer to the completion of the Council's first caravan site for 32 caravans, at Bradford Road, Corsham, at the end of November, and I am sure this site will fulfil a great need and may well prove to be the forerunner of further sites to be provided by the Council in various other parishes where such facilities are so urgently required.

Finally, I should like to thank all the Public Health Department (both office and outside staff) for their continued support.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant

H.J.TAYLOR,

Senior Public Health Inspector.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS' VISITS IN 1959:

	<u>1959</u>	<u>1958</u>
<u>General Sanitation.</u>		
Water supply	368	169
Drainage	278	447
Stables and piggeries	43	53
Fried fish shops	10	-
Tents, vans and sheds	280	273
Factories - power	45	71
non-power	-	5
Outworkers	-	2
Bakehouses	11	8
Public conveniences	55	13
Theatres and places of entertainment	1	-
Licensed premises	11	71
Refuse collection	401	38
Refuse disposal	94	31
Rats and mice	46	114
Atmospheric pollution	2	27
Schools	66	56
Shops	22	48
Nuisances	206	206
Water samples	404	407
Sewage samples	29	-
Miscellaneous sanitary visits	300	315

Housing.

No. of houses inspected under Public Health Acts	16	18
Revisits to above houses	19	37
No. of houses inspected under Housing Act	93	66
Revisits to above houses	280	116
No. of houses inspected for overcrowding	5	6
Revisits to above houses	-	6
No. of inspections of houses infected with flies or wasps	142	-
No. of premises visited in connection with Improvement Grants	209	201
Revisits to above premises	135	-
No. of miscellaneous housing visits	92	125
No. of filthy or verminous premises inspected	15	14
Revisits to above premises	3	27

Infectious Diseases.

No. of inquiries in cases of infectious disease	104	130
No. of visits re disinfection	45	25
No. of miscellaneous infectious disease visits	156	103
No. of food poisoning inquiries	4	20

Meat and Food Inspections.

No. of visits to Knacker's Yard	4	6
No. of visits to shops and stalls	-	3
No. of visits to other meat premises	2	2
No. of visits to: Butchers	23	28
Canteens	9	1
Dairies and milk distributors	25	40
Fishmongers and poulterers	13	11
Food preparing premises	8	22
Grocers	55	102
Greengrocers and fruiterers	1	13
Ice cream premises	30	82
Market stalls	1	2
Restaurants and cafes	25	38
Street vendors and hawkers	14	37

1959 1958

Visits in connection with Sampling:

Milk - bacteriological samples	128	130
biological samples	21	18
Ice Cream samples	164	144

Visits in connection with:

Surveying	762	604
Petroleum and Carbide	14	39
Town Planning	348	222
	<u>5299</u>	<u>4688</u>

DRAINAGE.

Nuisances.

A large number of complaints concerning alleged nuisances were received and dealt with to the best of our ability, and until such time as main drainage facilities are available in the various parishes, these complaints will arise.

A Statutory Notice served under Section 93 of the Public Health Act 1936, in respect of a nuisance from the deposit of faecal matter adjoining a row of cottages at Boxfields was complied with.

A cottage at Timberleaze, Gastard, the drainage from which caused a nuisance, was provided with a new septic tank and filter bed, and the nuisance abated.

Connections to Sewer.

Biddestone.

All but ten properties have been connected to the sewer, and of these, one should be connected shortly when an easement allowing the owner to connect to the Council house drainage system has been completed. Two properties will be converted into one unit and connected to the sewer when the Council re-houses one of the tenants, (one of the pair is unfit and this action is being taken under the Housing Act). The remaining seven properties have reasonably satisfactory drainage and there is no reason to require them to connect to the sewer.

Yatton Keynell.

The new sewers in Yatton Keynell became available for use in October 1958.

So far, 25 properties are connected to the sewer and 4 others are in course of connection; 16 properties have satisfactory means of drainage and cannot be compelled to be connected to this sewer.

Of the 48 properties not connected to the sewer, 20 are Council houses and the existing drains from these houses will be diverted from the existing sewage disposal works and connected to the sewer early in 1960.

Further efforts will be made during 1960 to ensure that all the house property without satisfactory drainage facilities, yet within 100 feet of the new sewers, will be connected to these.

Box.

Although Ministry approval has been received for this scheme for sewerage most of the parish of Box, and the provision of a new sewage disposal works, actual construction work will not be commenced until early in 1960.

Once this scheme has been completed, much work will fall to the Public Health Department to ensure that all properties without satisfactory drainage facilities will be connected to the new sewers.

Sampling of Sewage Effluents.

The routine work of taking samples of the effluents from the Council's public sewage disposal works and larger Council house sewage disposal plants has continued throughout 1959, and the undermentioned reports have been received.

At some Council house sewage disposal plants it has not been possible to take samples as such effluents are highly diluted by sub-soil water or else the effluents have been absorbed into the sub-soil before reaching the outfall of the effluent drains.

The Council's Engineer is kept fully informed on these results so that he can take appropriate action should any of these reports be unsatisfactory.

<u>Sewage Disposal Works:</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>		<u>Unsatisfactory</u>	
	<u>1959</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1958</u>
Colerne	2	(1)	1	(1)
Castle Combe (Long Dean)	4	(1)	1	(-)
Corsham	3	(1)	-	(1)
Lacock	2	(2)	1	(-)

Sewage Disposal Plants:

Heddington	(Scotts Close)	1	(-)	-	(-)
Bremhill	(Fishersbrook)	1	(-)	-	(-)
Bremhill	(Wick Bridge)	-	(1)	1	(1)
Calne Without	(Studley)	-	(1)	1	(-)
Cherhill	(The Street)	1	(1)	-	(-)
Christian Malford	(Coronation Close)	-	(1)	1	(2)
Hilmarton	(Goatacre)	1	(-)	-	(-)
Hilmarton	(Lammas Close)	-	(-)	1	(-)
Kington St. Michael	(Town Close)	-	(-)	1	(-)
Langley Burrell	(Oakhurst)	1	(-)	1	(-)
Sutton Benger	(Upper Seagry)	-	(2)	1	(-)
Sutton Benger	(Seagry Hill)	-	(-)	1	(2)
		<u>16</u>	<u>(11)</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>(7)</u>

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

The public conveniences provided at Box, Castle Combe, Colerne, Corsham and Lacock have been maintained in a satisfactory condition.

The improved facilities at the Lacock public conveniences have been much appreciated by visitors to this charming mediaeval village.

New wash-hand basins were installed at the Station Road, Corsham, and the Box public conveniences.

Much wilful damage to coin boxes, door locks and sanitary apparatus is occasioned by members of the public who do not appreciate the amenities provided by the Council, at no small cost to the ratepayers of the district.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

A fortnightly collection of refuse is maintained for the 24 parishes within the rural district, except for the more urban areas of Corsham, which receive a weekly collection.

In addition to the collection and disposal of refuse from private domestic properties, the Council also collects and disposes of refuse from various service departments established in the area, particularly from Air Ministry properties.

The number of properties from which refuse is collected increases each year, and the estimated amount of refuse collected in 1959 exceeded that collected in 1958 by some 600 tons.

The increased work occasioned by this greater amount of refuse collected and the extra work involved at the various refuse tips to maintain them in a satisfactory condition, necessitated the employment of an extra man on the refuse staff, which now consists of:-

One working foreman,
One tip attendant responsible for operating
the mechanical 'dozer,
Four drivers,
Six loaders, or ash-bin men,
One paper baler.

The 'Howard' Bulloader, which has given such excellent service in maintaining and covering the refuse tips, is now showing visible signs of its hard work, and the maintenance cost continues to rise, despite careful routine maintenance and greasing of the machine. The main wear is on the tracks, which have to work in a mixture of tins, glass, ashes and grease, although other defects are beginning to appear on other moveable parts of the machine.

The amount of available tipping space at Inwood, Lacock, is rapidly diminishing and the time may now be appropriate to negotiate for tipping rights at the recently opened gravel pit adjoining Inwood.

A fire at Burton tip prevented this tip from being used for some time, but the fire extended right through the tip, and when it had burnt itself out it had provided more urgently needed tipping space.

The new refuse tip at The Rocks, Marshfield, in an old stone quarry, has proved a great asset, and by using this tip it has been possible to collect all the refuse from the rapidly expanding population in Colerne in one day, without recourse to overtime.

The other refuse tips at Sutton Benger, Spirthill and Yatesbury have been satisfactorily maintained.

During the year the Council replaced a 1950 10 cu.yd. Bedford refuse lorry with a new 12 cu.yd. Bedford refuse lorry.

The Council's fleet of refuse vehicles consists of:-

One - 10 cu.yd. Bedford,	purchased in 1951
One - 18 cu.yd. Shelvoke and Drewry,	" " 1954
One - 12 cu.yd. Bedford,	" " 1956
One - 5 ton open Bedford lorry,	" " 1958
One - 12 cu.yd. Bedford,	" " 1959
One Ford van,	" " 1958.

I shall be recommending the Council to replace the 1951 10 cu.yd. Bedford with a larger-capacity vehicle to cope with the additional volume of work anticipated in 1960 and the succeeding years.

Approximately 7376 tons of refuse were collected and disposed of at the various refuse tips, an increase of 600 tons over 1958.

The approximate cost of the service during 1959 is as set out below:-

	<u>1959</u>	<u>1958</u>
Cost of collection	£ 8314	£ 7413
" " disposal	£ 3082	£ 2817
	<u>£ 11396</u>	<u>£ 10230</u>

The cost of maintaining this service has continued to increase, partly due to rising running costs, wage increases and the high cost of maintaining and adequately covering the refuse deposited at the refuse tips. It is indeed fortunate for the Council that so much free covering material is available at Lacock, otherwise the cost of maintaining this service would be much higher, due to the cost of purchasing covering material. Every opportunity is taken to procure suitable covering material free of cost.

Over the years, the service has been streamlined, and the work is reaching such proportions that every day of the week is now occupied on collection of refuse or obtaining covering material.

The purchase of a larger vehicle during 1960 will be of inestimable value, and will considerably help the refuse staff in their daily work.

SUPPLY OF DUSTBINS.

The Council continued to purchase and sell at cost price plus delivery charge, dustbins to ratepayers in the rural district, and some 177 dustbins were sold in this way.

A new dustbin store was leased at Lacock in which approximately 100 dustbins can be stored in a dry and safe condition at any one time.

Over the past ten years the Council has been encouraging householders to store refuse in proper dustbins with close-fitting lids, but it has been very difficult to educate the general public to the fact that such a receptacle was necessary in the interests of good health. There has been a gradual improvement in the number of dwellinghouses provided with such receptacles and in an effort to improve the general position with regard to these containers a survey was made of nine parishes to ascertain the approximate percentage of dustbins provided in these parishes.

The information obtained was most surprising: in one parish only 28% of the houses had satisfactory dustbins, whilst in another parish 72% of the houses were so provided. The average for the nine parishes was 56%.

Yatton Keynell had the lowest percentage of dustbins and a further survey of this parish was made, and informal notices sent to householders without proper bins. As a result of this survey and further follow-up work, by the end of the year 93 of the 110 premises visited had been provided with standard dustbins.

Further surveys will be carried out in this way during the months of 1960.

LITTER BASKETS.

The Council has continued to provide and maintain at various lay-bys throughout the rural district, 40-gallon drums which have been adapted and painted for use as litter containers.

It is difficult to say whether the provision of these containers has helped towards keeping the countryside free from litter, for these receptacles have been grossly misused by the general public. Lorry and van drivers have used them to contain the sweepings and waste from their vehicles, and anything from bales of straw to huge cardboard containers have been found jammed in the drums, and the ditches and hedges adjoining the lay-bys strewn with litter.

LITTER ACT 1958.

No prosecutions have been made under this Act, due to insufficient evidence being available to ensure a successful prosecution.

WASTE PAPER.

The Council continued to collect waste paper separately from household refuse and 293 tons of paper was collected in this way, which is an increase of 17 tons over last year. The value of this paper was £1825.

Provided the co-operation of the public can be maintained, to continue to salvage waste paper separately from household refuse, I am confident that during 1960 my target figure of 300 tons per annum will be achieved.

A new waste paper storage depot will have to be found to replace the Nissen hut at Woodlands, which the Housing Management Committee wish to have removed, and I am negotiating with a firm in Corsham for the lease of two disused Nissen huts off the Bradford Road, Corsham.

SCRAP METAL.

The Council has ceased to salvage scrap metal as it became uneconomic to do so, also it became impossible to secure an outlet for the sale of this material.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.Public Health Act 1936, Section 107.

There are no offensive trade establishments, as defined by Section 107 of the Public Health Act 1936, within the area of this Council.

FRIED FISH SHOPS.

There are only two fried fish shops established within this area, one at Boxfields and the other at Colerne. Ten visits have been made to these food premises and the owner of one establishment has been requested to improve the general conditions within and surrounding his business premises.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.Public Health Act 1936, Section 269.Licences authorising persons to erect, or station and use Moveable Dwellings.Parishes with Licensed Moveable Dwellings - Licences issued:

Biddestone	1	Heddington	1
Box	6	Hilmarton	7
Bremhill	5	Kington St. Michael	2
Calne Without	2	Lacock	3
Cherhill	9	Langley Burrell	1
Chippenham Without	11	Nettleton	3
Christian Malford	5	North Wraxall	3
Compton Bassett	1	Pewsham	1
Colerne	7	Sutton Benger	9
Corsham	16	Yatton Keynell	4

There is still an increased demand for caravan licences and 97 licences were issued in 1959, as against 89 in 1958. In addition to these caravans, there are 26 at Box and 15 at Colerne on private licensed sites.

A detailed scheme for a Council-owned caravan site for 32 caravans at Bradford Road, Corsham, was prepared in the office and submitted to tender, and a contractor moved on to the site in August. This site has been provided with the following amenities:-

- (1) Hardcore roadways with concrete curbing;
- (2) Hard standings;
- (3) Main drainage;
- (4) Two sanitary blocks and one wash-room;
- (5) Hot water supply in wash-room capable of providing sufficient hot water for clothes washing and shower baths (if required);
- (6) Mains water by standpipes centrally situated;
- (7) Mains electricity to each plot, and street lighting;
- (8) Car parks.

A warden has been engaged, who resides on the site, and his duties include the general management of the site, and the collection of rents.

Each plot is let at an inclusive weekly charge of 17/6d.

The site was completed by the middle of December and the first plot was occupied on the 18th December.

This caravan site has met a long-wanted need, particularly in the Corsham and Box areas, and many caravans which are placed on exposed and unsatisfactory sites unacceptable to the Council can now find proper accommodation here.

The final cost of this site is not yet available but the accepted tender was in the sum of £4296.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1936, SECTION 58.

Dangerous or Dilapidated Buildings.

I have had to report on two dangerous buildings at Castle Combe, and in each case a Court Order was obtained requiring the owner to execute such works as may be necessary to obviate the danger. In one instance the Council executed the work in default and recovered by instalments the expense incurred.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1936, SECTIONS 83-85.

Filthy and Verminous Premises or Articles and Verminous Persons.

I have to report again that there has been a further slight increase in the reported cases of verminous premises, and this year 15 premises have been visited and given the appropriate treatment.

FLIES.

An exceptional number of complaints were received this year of fly infestations in private houses and some of these infestations were very extensive, involving the spraying of the interior of roofs with insecticides. Some 142 visits were made in this connection and it is hoped that if we are fortunate enough to enjoy a similarly beautiful summer in 1960 as was experienced in 1959, it will not be accompanied by so many unwelcome visitors.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

32 reports have been given to the Medical Officer of Health in connection with Scarlet Fever notifications, and in every case disinfection of the affected rooms and bedding has been carried out.

Enquiries have also been made into notified cases of dysentery, and faecal samples have been taken and forwarded to the Public Health Laboratory. Householders have been advised of the usual preventive precautions to be taken to avoid the spread of infection.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955.FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS 1955.

206 visits have been made to the 112 food shops within the rural district but although it has been necessary to draw the attention of certain proprietors to breaches of the Food Hygiene Regulations, it has not been necessary to invoke statutory proceedings.

Food premises within the area consist of:-

Grocers	18
General stores	61
Butchers	9
Fish and fruit shops	5
Restaurants and cafes	8
Fish and chip shops	2
Bakers	9
	<u>112</u>

Condemned Food.

Your Public Health Inspectors are from time to time called in to inspect suspected foodstuffs at various food premises and during 1959 the undermentioned foodstuffs were condemned and voluntarily surrendered as being unfit for human consumption:-

3 stone cod fillet.....taint.
 4 - 29oz. tins pears.....blown.
 5 - 16lb. tins corned beef.....blown.
 1 - 4lb. tin pork and beef.....puncture.
 2 - 12oz. tins meat loaf.....puncture.
 1 - 14lb. cooked ham.....putrefaction.
 1 - 10lb. tin sheeps liver.....puncture.
 1 - 4lb. tin chopped ham.....blown.
 110lb. chopped steak.....taint.
 2 pkts. Puffed Wheat.....)
 8lb. Porage Oats.....)
 1 lb. Quaker Oats.....)
 2 pkts. Rice Krispies.....)
 1 pkt. All Bran.....)damaged by rodents.
 1 crate Weetabix.....)
 3 pkts. chocolate fingers.....)
 1 - 8oz. jam roll.....)
 6 crumpets.....)

Poultry Packing Stations.

There are two quite large poultry packing stations established and now working to full capacity, one at Sutton Benger and the other at Corsham.

The station at Sutton Benger is a modern factory designed for the purpose and provided with the most modern and advanced equipment and machinery available to the trade.

The other factory at Corsham has been established in existing buildings, not especially designed for the purpose, but it has been provided with all the necessary facilities for a modern poultry packing station. I found it necessary to ask the owner of this factory to provide additional facilities and improvements within the factory and to make available improved catering facilities, and these he readily agreed to provide.

The average daily output of poultry from these two poultry packing stations is not far short of 35,000 birds per day, and with the present staff it is physically impossible to maintain a 100% inspection of the kill at these premises. The incidence of disease in poultry is so small that in my opinion a 100% inspection is not

justified, provided that regular and frequent visits are made to the factory to ensure that the provisions of the Hygiene Regulations are being scrupulously observed.

A complaint of unpleasant smell from the Sutton Benger plant was investigated and this was eventually traced to the offal by-product plant, but after the Company had installed a deodorising system throughout the factory and had provided an extract fan within the offal plant room to extract the odours generated by the plant to the extract flue and thence through the condenser, such complaints have virtually ceased.

ICE CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT ETC.) REGULATIONS 1947.

ICE CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT ETC.) AMENDMENT REGULATIONS 1952.

91 premises are now registered for the storage and sale of ice cream, as compared with 68 in 1958.

Ice cream is now sold in almost every kind of food premises, and has spread to kiosks at petrol filling stations and licensed premises.

The regular sampling of ice cream has continued throughout the ice cream season, which now extends almost throughout the whole year and it is gratifying to report that once again no samples were placed in Grade IV, which is the lowest grade for ice cream.

In 1959 we experienced an exceptionally fine, warm, and prolonged summer, and the results of samples taken during this period compare very favourably with the same period in 1958.

Premises registered for the storage and sale of Ice Cream:

Biddestone	1
Box	11
Bremhill	3
Calne Without	2
Castle Combe	3
Cherhill	3
Colerne	5
Compton Bassett	2
Christian Malford	2
Corsham	22
Grittleton	1
Heddington	11
Hilmarton	2
Kington Langley	3
Kington St. Michael	2
Lacock	5
Langley Burrell	1
Nettleton	2
North Wraxall	2
Pewsham	1
Stanton St. Quintin	1
Sutton Benger	3
Yatton Keynell	3
	<u>91</u>

Sampling of Ice Cream.

	<u>1959</u>	<u>1958</u>
Grade I	157	(15?)
" II	31	(15)
" III	5	(-)
" IV	-	(-)

LICENSED PREMISES.

Voluntary major improvements have been carried out to two licensed premises at Box, including the provision of improved sanitary amenities.

Other improvements have been executed at premises in Corsham.

As I reported last year, since 1946 very many essential improvements have been carried out at the licensed premises within the rural district, a great many being voluntary improvements and the others being carried out as a result of representations from the Public Health Department. It can now confidently be said that these premises are provided with adequate sanitary and other facilities to meet the needs of people visiting them.

BAKEHOUSES.

There are now 11 bakehouses in the rural district, one bakehouse at Castle Combe having closed down during 1959.

All the bakehouses were visited during the year, viz.:-

Bremhill.....	2	Corsham.....	3
Castle Combe.....	1	Hilmarton.....	1
Cherhill.....	1	Kington St.Michael..	1
Colerne.....	1	Sutton Bengers.....	1

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955, SECTION 63.Knacker's Yard, Heddington.

The application for the renewal of the licence for the continuance of the above premises was considered and the Council agreed to renew the same, following a satisfactory report on the general conditions prevailing at the premises.

From time to time surprise visits are made to these premises to ensure that the various provisions of legislation applicable to such premises are being complied with.

The return of horses killed at the knacker's yard, required by the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations 1958, has been forwarded to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. The return shows that 21 horses were slaughtered, 8 at the knacker's yard and 13 at various farm premises. 11 horse carcasses were also received at the knacker's yard.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955, SECTION 62.SLAUGHTERHOUSES ACT 1958.SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACTS 1933-1954.SLAUGHTERHOUSES (HYGIENE) REGULATIONS 1958.SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS (PREVENTION OF CRUELTY) REGULATIONS 1958.SLAUGHTERHOUSE LICENCES (FORMS AND RECORDS) REGULATIONS 1959.SLAUGHTERHOUSES REPORTS (APPOINTED DAY) ORDER 1959.SLAUGHTERHOUSE (REPORTS) DIRECTION 1959.

As there are no slaughterhouses within the rural district, the general provisions of the above Acts and Regulations will not have to be implemented, except those which refer to the provision of information by the Council to the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food concerning the probable future requirements of slaughterhouse facilities.

Certain provisions of the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations 1958 apply to a knacker's yard.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT 1933.SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS (AMENDMENT) ACT 1954.SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS (PREVENTION OF CRUELTY) REGULATIONS 1958, SECTION 19.

Three applications for renewal of existing slaughterman's licences were considered and the necessary licences granted. No new licences were issued. These men are engaged at the knacker's yard at Heddington.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955.THE MILK AND DAIRIES (GENERAL) REGULATIONS 1959.Registration of Dairies other than Dairy Farms, and of Distributors.

Regulation 8(1) requires the registration of distributors only with the local authority in whose area the premises from which the milk is distributed are situated. This accounts for the reduction in registered distributors from 30 to 20:

No. of Registered Dairies..... 17 (16)
No. of Registered Distributors.. 20 (30)

The registered dairies are situated in the following parishes:-

Box	3	Colerne	1
Bremhill	1	Compton Bassett	2
Calne Without	1	Corsham	4
Castle Combe	1	Lacock	1
Christian Malford ...	1	Nettleton	1
Yatton Keynell	1		

25 inspections have been made at these dairies.

The various milk vans etc. used for the distribution of milk are inspected from time to time and the attention of owners brought to any contraventions of the Milk Regulations.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION)(PASTEURISED AND STERILISED MILK) REGULATIONS 1949-1953.

No. of dealers' licences to use special designation "Pasteurised" 18 (18)

No. of dealers' supplementary licences to use special designation "Pasteurised" 12 (10)

Principal Pasteurised Dealers:

Bremhill	1	Compton Bassett	2
Box	2	Corsham	6
Calne Without	1	Lacock	2
Christian Malford ...	1	Nettleton	1
Colerne	1	Yatton Keynell	1

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION)(RAW MILK) REGULATIONS 1949-1953.

No. of dealers' licences to use special designation "Tuberculin Tested" 18 (18)

No. of dealers' supplementary licences to use special designation "Tuberculin Tested" 12 (12)

Principal T.T. Dealers:

Bremhill	1	Colerne	1
Box	2	Compton Bassett	2
Calne Without	1	Corsham	6
Castle Combe	1	Lacock	1
Christian Malford ...	1	Nettleton	1
Yatton Keynell	1		

MILK SAMPLING.

A close check has been made on the milk supplies retailed within the rural district.

132 samples of milk have been taken, of which 111 passed the Methylene Blue test and 21 failed. The percentage of failures is much higher this year than last, but I think this can be accounted for by the exceptionally hot summer experienced last year.

I am not entirely convinced that the failure of these milk samples was due to the negligence of the milk retailer. I suspect that some of the fault may be attributed to the producers of the milk. My suspicions have proved well-founded as in one case the licence of a T.T. producer supplying milk to a dairyman was subsequently suspended.

Samples of empty sterilised milk bottles are sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Bath, for rinse testing and of the series tested, all four were passed as satisfactory.

SHOPS ACT 1950, SECTION 38.

22 inspections of shop premises have been made in connection with lighting, ventilation, temperature, and the provision of sanitary conveniences.

RENT ACT 1957, SECTION 2 AND 1st.SCHEDULE.

2 new applications for 'Certificates of Disrepair' have been received and dealt with and the position concerning such applications is set out below:-

Applications for Certificates of Disrepair:

(1)	No. of applications for certificates	2
(2)	No. of decisions not to issue certificates	Nil
(3)	No. of decisions to issue certificates	2
	(a) in respect of some but not all defects	Nil
	(b) in respect of all defects	2
(4)	No. of undertakings given by landlords under Paragraph 5 of the 1st Schedule	Nil
(5)	No. of undertakings refused by landlords under Paragraph 5 of the 1st Schedule	Nil
(6)	No. of certificates issued	2
(7)	No. of applications by landlords to local authority for cancellation of certificates	2
(8)	No. of objections by tenants to cancellation of certificates	Nil
(9)	No. of decisions by local authority to cancel certificates in spite of tenant's objection	Nil
(10)	No. of certificates cancelled by local authority	2

HOUSING ACTS.HOUSING ACT 1957.

This Act repealed and re-enacted in consolidated form the provisions of the earlier Housing Acts, with the exception of financial provisions.

The Housing Act 1957 is divided into eight parts, which follow generally the arrangement of the Housing Act 1936, with the necessary modification and expansion.

Section 4 defines matters to be taken into account in determining whether a house is unfit. These include:-

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| (a) repair | (f) water supply |
| (b) stability | (g) drainage and sanitation |
| (c) freedom from damp | (h) facilities for storage, |
| (d) natural lighting | preparation and cooking of food |
| (e) ventilation | and the disposal of waste water. |

Sections 9-15 deal with unfit premises capable of repair at a reasonable cost. Sections 16-32 deal with unfit premises beyond repair at a reasonable cost.

Sections 16,17 and 18 are particularly important: Section 16 empowers local authorities to serve notices on owners of unfit houses of the time and place at which the condition of the houses, and any offer with respect to the carrying out of works or the future use of the houses which they may wish to submit, will be considered by the local authority.

Sections 17 and 18 empower local authorities to make Demolition Orders or Closing Orders.

This year a great deal of time has been devoted to the inspection of houses considered unfit and not repairable at a reasonable cost, and of the 302 houses inspected under the Housing Acts, 52 have been represented to the Council as being unfit.

The statistics which follow set out the formal action taken by the Council in respect of unfit houses. These statistics do not give a complete picture of the action taken by the Council as certain houses represented to the Council as being unfit will be inspected by the Housing Sub-Committee during the early part of 1960, before any final decision is taken concerning these properties.

The parishes so far inspected for unfit houses include:-
Bremhill, Box, Castle Combe, Corsham, Nettleton, and Yatton Keynell.

It is my intention to continue to report unfit houses during 1960 and I am hoping that by the end of that year the majority of unfit houses will have been reported to the Council.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

	<u>1959</u>	<u>1958</u>
1. <u>Inspection of Dwellings during the year:</u>		
(a) No. of dwellings inspected for housing defects under the Public Health Acts	108	315
(b) No. of dwellings inspected for housing defects under the Housing Acts	302	326
(c) No. of dwellings so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation	52	4
(d) No. of dwellings found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation	9	10
(e) No. of dwellings rendered fit in consequence of informal action	5	4
2. <u>Proceedings under Public Health Act:</u>		
(f) No. of dwellings where formal notices were served	1	11
(g) No. of dwellings made fit as a result of formal notices:		
(i) by owners	1	-
(ii) by local authority in default of the owners	5	-

3. Proceedings under Section 16 of the Housing Act 1957:

(h) No. of Demolition Orders made	5	-
(i) No. of houses demolished as a result of Demolition Orders	4	1
(j) No. of houses demolished as a result of informal action	11	-
(k) No. of undertakings accepted	2	-
(l) No. of undertakings completed	1	-

4. Proceedings under Sections 17,18 and 27 of the Housing Act 1957:

(m) No. of dwellings where Closing Orders were made ..	4	-
(n) No. of dwellings closed as a result of Closing Orders or undertakings by owners	4	-
(o) No. of dwellings where Closing Orders were cancelled in consequence of premises being made fit	-	3

5. Proceedings under Section 76 of the Housing Act 1957:

(p) No. of cases of overcrowding at end of the year ..	Not known.
(q) No. of cases of overcrowding discovered during the year	Nil.
(r) No. of cases of overcrowding abated during the year	Nil.

HOUSING (FINANCIAL PROVISIONS) ACT 1958, as amended by HOUSE PURCHASE AND HOUSING ACT 1959.

Every encouragement has been given to property owners to improve their houses with the aid of improvement grants, and in addition to the 51 applications approved many other houses were inspected with owners and builders, and advice given as to whether such dwellings were suitable for improvement or not.

Improvement Grants have now been available for the past ten years and during this period the Council has approved 327 schemes for conversion or improvement to house property.

As one travels through the various villages within the rural district, the "new look" given to cottages improved by means of improvement grants is becoming most noticeable, and a "blood transfusion" has been given to many properties, which will give them a further useful life of 30-50 years, the length of further life depending on the regular maintenance given to such dwellings.

<u>Discretionary Grants:</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1958</u>
No. of applications received	54	32
No. of applications approved	51	34
No. of applications refused	1	1
No. of applications under consideration	8	7
No. of applications withdrawn	2	5
No. of houses improved with the aid of a Discretionary Grant	51	37
Value of the Grants authorised	£ 19,979 £ 11,312	

HOUSE PURCHASE AND HOUSING ACT 1959.Standard Grants.

In the preface to this report I have referred to the new "Standard Grants" which are now available to house-owners in addition to "Discretionary Grants".

This new Act only came into force on the 14th June 1959, and during the six months ending on the 31st December 1959, 28 Standard Grant applications had been received.

This is a very encouraging start and I hope that during the next year or so many more applications will be received to provide the five essential amenities to houses qualifying for standard grant aid. These amenities are:-

- (a) fixed bath or shower in bathroom £ 25.
- (b) wash-hand basin £ 5.
- (c) hot water supply £ 75.
- (d) water closet £ 40.
- (e) satisfactory facilities for storing food £ 10.

No. of Standard Grant applications received..	28
No. of Standard Grant applications approved..	19
No. of Standard Grant applications withdrawn	1
No. of Standard Grant applications under consideration	8

Value of the Grants authorised £ 2,615

BUILDING BYELAWS: PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1936, SECTION 61.

There has been a considerable increase in building activities within the rural district during 1959 and some 561 applications in connection with building work were dealt with:

<u>Plans received:</u>	<u>Work completed:</u>			
	<u>1959</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1958</u>
Additions to houses	26	16	8	6
Septic tanks	27	18	8	5
Garages	47	55	22	25
Internal alterations	6	13	4	4
Industrial buildings	9	11	6	11
Agricultural buildings	21	15	7	15
Bathrooms	116	59	38	59
Licensed premises	3	1	-	1
Business premises	32	37	15	37
New dwellings	72	70	56	41
Sewer connections	-	12	-	-
	<u>359</u>	<u>307</u>	<u>164</u>	<u>204</u>

WATER SUPPLIES.

Some 399 water samples have been taken from the various public and private water supplies within the rural district. Of these samples, 314 were taken from public supplies and 85 from private wells or springs affording water to dwellinghouses not connected to the Council's public mains.

The samples taken from private supplies have been taken from properties situated in the Derry Hill, Studley, Sandy Lane, Heddington, and Stockley areas, and a determined effort is being made to ensure that full use is being made of the public water mains in the eastern parishes of the rural district and that all properties without a pure and wholesome supply of water, within a reasonable distance of such mains, are connected to them.

Statutory Notices issued in respect of the provision of mains water to five cottages at The Butts, Biddestone, were complied with.

All samples are submitted to the Salisbury or Bath Public Health Laboratories for bacteriological examination. Chemical samples of water are taken from the main sources of public water supply to check whether there has been any appreciable change in the chemical composition of such water.

Analysis of Results of Samples:

<u>Source.</u>	<u>Fit.</u>	<u>Suspect.</u>	<u>Unfit.</u>
Widdenham, Box	35	3	4
Washwells, Box	12	2	1
Goodshill, Corsham	9	2	1
Nettleton	11	3	
Biddestone (Regional)	3		
Grittleton (")	4		
Stanton St. Quintin (")	4		
West Kington, Nettleton (")	5	1	1
Sutton Benger (")	5		
East Tytherton, Bremhill (")	3		
Burton, Nettleton (West Glos. Water Co.)	4		
Yatesbury, Cherhill (R.A.F.)	10		
Cherhill (Blackfords)	6	1	1
Cherhill (Compton Bassett Water Co.)	7	1	3
Theobalds Green, Calne (Calne Borough)	4	1	
Langley Burrell (Harris's)	3		
Eastern Area Water Scheme:-			
Cherhill	12		
Heddington	6	1	
Bremhill	7		
Hilmarton	10		1
Compton Bassett	6		
Foxham	5		
Yewstock	24		
Fiveways	43		
Bowden Hill	49		
Private supplies	24	25	36
	<u>311</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>48</u>

9 Chemical samples were satisfactory.

AGRICULTURE (SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE PROVISIONS) ACT 1956.

There are over 500 registered dairy farms and several market gardens within the rural district and with so many other important public health duties to perform, it has been impossible to devote much time to the inspection of agricultural units in connection with the above Act.

The few inspections which have been made have been confined to the inspection of market gardens where the labour force is generally much greater than at farm premises. Sanitary accommodation has been found to be adequate at these market gardens.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOOD) ORDER 1957.

All premises registered for the treatment of food waste have been revisited during the year and in several instances improved boiling equipment and storage facilities have been installed.

22 premises are licensed under the Order. One licence to use premises for this purpose was revoked, the person concerned (at Lacock), having given up the treatment of unboiled waste.

A complete summary of your Rodent Operator's work is given below. In addition to inspections and treatments of the various Council properties, including Council houses, sewage disposal works, sewers, and refuse tips, the Rodent Operator has carried out extensive inspections and treatments of private dwellinghouses, business premises, and farms.

The necessary returns have been sent to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, concerning sewer treatments.

PARISH.	Private premises inspected.	Treatments carried out.	Business premises inspected.	Treatments carried out.	Council houses inspected.	Treatments carried out.
Biddestone	30	2	6	-	11	1
Box	45	17	25	17	44	18
Bremhill	20	-	2	-	-	-
Calne Without	22	2	4	1	-	-
Castle Combe	38	5	18	8	-	-
Cherhill	38	4	7	-	10	-
Chippenham Without	20	-	6	-	-	-
Christian Malford	21	2	6	-	-	-
Colerne	30	2	17	-	-	-
Compton Bassett	38	7	9	3	-	-
Corsham	129	28	93	42	63	32
Grittletton	29	2	11	3	-	-
Heddington	41	-	5	-	6	2
Hilmarton	38	4	11	3	12	2
Kington Langley	24	-	4	-	-	-
Kington St. Michael	37	4	11	-	-	-
Lacock	37	6	20	2	24	5
Langley Burrell Without	23	-	2	-	-	-
Nettleton	28	-	-	-	-	-
North Wraxall	32	5	8	2	-	-
Pewsham	29	4	11	5	-	-
Stanton St. Quintin	47	2	14	4	-	-
Sutton Benger	44	11	18	9	28	10
Yatton Keynell	32	-	7	-	10	-
TOTALS:	872	107	315	99	208	70

Refuse Tips, etc.

	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Treatments</u>
Biddestone	-	-
Burton	29	27
Inwood	27	27
Nethermore	-	-
Spirthill	13	11
Sutton Benger	26	21
Box Sewer Beds	12	10
Castle Combe Sewage Works	2	-
Colerne Sewage Works	6	5
Corsham Sewage Works	4	3
Woodlands Paper Depot	21	19
TOTALS:	<u>140</u>	<u>123</u>

Banks, Hedgerows, Ditches, etc.

Agricultural Properties.

<u>Inspections.</u>	<u>Treatments.</u>	<u>Inspections.</u>	<u>Treatments.</u>
70	46	142	106
<u>==</u>	<u>==</u>	<u>==</u>	<u>==</u>

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FACTORIES ACTS 1937 AND 1948 (PART I OF THE ACTS).Inspections for the Purposes of Provisions as to Health.

The Council's main responsibilities under the Factories Acts in connection with factories where mechanical power is not used, are confined to cleanliness, overcrowding, temperature, ventilation, lighting, and drainage of the floors, of such factories.

The Council is responsible for seeing that adequate sanitary conveniences are provided and maintained at all factories.

Some 45 inspections have been made, and in three instances owners have been requested to comply with certain provisions of the Acts.

	<u>No. on</u> <u>Register</u>	<u>Inspec-</u> <u>tions</u>	<u>Written</u> <u>Notices</u>
(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by the local authority	5	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1), in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority	82	45	-

No. of Cases in which Defects were found:

	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remed-</u> <u>ied</u>	<u>Referred</u> <u>by H.M.</u> <u>Inspr.of</u> <u>Fact.</u>	<u>Referred</u> <u>to H.M.</u> <u>Inspr.of</u> <u>Fact.</u>
Sanitary conveniences:				
Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	-
Other offences	2	-	-	-

FACTORIES ACT 1937, SECTION 34.Means of Escape in Case of Fire.

Five factories have been inspected in connection with means of escape in case of fire and I have recommended the Council to issue new certificates in respect of two factories at Corsham and one at Sutton Benger. I have also recommended the issue of amended certificates in respect of two factories, one at Slaughterford and another at Quemerford.

The Factories Acts 1937 and 1948 have been amended by the Factories Act 1959, and in future the functions of a district council under Sections 34 and 35 of the principal Act will be exercisable by the fire authority.

FACTORIES ACT 1937, SECTION 110.Outworkers.

The number of outworkers has decreased from 49 to 40 during 1959, distributed throughout the undermentioned parishes, there being 4 fewer workers at Corsham and 5 fewer at Box:-

Box	9	Kington St.Michael ..	1
Castle Combe	1	Lacock	2
Corsham	26	Yatton Keynell	1

CLEAN AIR ACT 1956.

It has not been necessary to take any action under the provisions of this Act.

